Promotion of handlooms and handicrafts in **Punjab**

2168. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

whether Government of Punjab has proposed any scheme to Government for the promotion of handlooms and handicrafts in the State;

if so, the details thereof and by when centre's approval is likely to be accorded; and

the nature and extent of central assistance for the implementation of the schemes to be provided during 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Problems of Weavers/Artisans

2169. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA; Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

the details of problems of weavers and artisans;

how Government propose to solve these problems; and

whether Government proposes to set up a monitoring machinery to ensure proper implementation of various schemes/programmes for weavers and artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Handloom and handicraft Sectors are unorganized in nature. Hence, weavers and artisans are facing many problems such as lack of infrastructure! facilities; lack of working capital; inadequacy of resources, raw materials and other linkages; production and design related bottlenecks; organizational constraints low level of investments etc. In addition to these handloom weavers are also facing stiff competition from cheap powerloom products.

The Government of India is implementing 5 Schemes for promotion and development of Handloom Sector which includes (1) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme; (2) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme; (3) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; (4) Mill Gate Price Scheme; and (5) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme. For the Handicraft Sector, Government is implementing 6 Schemes which include (1) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Viaks Yoajana; (2) Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; (3) Marketing Support & Service Scheme; (4) Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme (5) Human Resource Development Scheme; and (6) Research & Development Scheme.

The handloom related schemes are being implemented by the Government of India with the help of the State Government/agencies. The schemes are being monitored regularly through the Directorate-in-Charge of Handlooms of the respective States and the Office of